

Dear FCC,

I am writing to urge you NOT to relax or eliminate regulations which limit the number of radio stations or other media outlets a single corporation can own. Already, too many broadcast stations or print publications are owned by too few large companies. I feel strongly that concentrated ownership does nothing (and likely harms) diversity of programming, of viewpoint, and of topics reported in our media. The 1996 deregulation has hurt the quality of our media in general. Local programming / news / emergency reporting has been adversely affected. No further deregulation, please.

Some argue that the need to regulate ownership is obsolete now that cable programming is available in addition to the necessarily finite number of broadcast frequencies available in a given market. I disagree with this reasoning, in large part because cable programming is costly to consumers -- it cannot be fairly assumed that all people can afford cable service, nor that they are willing to pay for it. Broadcast radio and TV service is free therefore available to all, and the spectrum of broadcast programming should be diverse. In fact, a return to earlier regulatory standards would be advisable in order to avoid complete market monopolies in the vein of late 18th Century steel/oil/coal barons.